

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A method for stabilizing the biomolecule function of conjugates composed of colloidal particles and biomolecules, the method comprising:

a) adding an amount of detergent that does not exceed a critical micelle concentration, wherein the concentration of said detergent is 0.001 to 1 mM, to a solution containing biomolecules, and

b) thereafter loading ~~colloidal~~ particles in a colloidal state with said solution of biomolecules to form conjugated colloidal particles, wherein said detergent does not adversely influence the biomolecules or the conjugated particle function of ~~the conjugates~~ said conjugated colloidal particles by displacing the biomolecules ~~or by interacting with the biomolecules or the colloidal particles after loading~~ from said conjugated colloidal particles.

25-26. (Canceled).

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

adding an additional stabilizer after loading the colloidal particles.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the additional stabilizer is an inert protein, polyethylene glycol, or a mixture thereof.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the colloidal particles are selected from the group consisting of gold, silver, copper, platinum, palladium and mixtures thereof.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the biomolecules are selected from the group consisting of antibodies, antibody fragments, lectins, enzymes, streptavidin, avidin, protein A, antigens, peptides and haptens.

31. (Currently Amended) A process for producing colloidal particles having biomolecule adsorbing surfaces, the process comprising:

a) adding an amount of detergent that does not exceed a critical micelle concentration, wherein the concentration of said detergent is 0.001 to 1 mM, to a solution containing biomolecules, and

b) thereafter contacting ~~colloidal~~ particles in a colloidal state with said solution of biomolecules to form conjugated colloidal particles, wherein said detergent does not adversely influence the biomolecule or the conjugated particle function of ~~the conjugates~~ said conjugated colloidal particles by displacing the biomolecules ~~or by interacting with the biomolecules or the colloidal particles after loading from said conjugated colloidal particles.~~

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the colloidal particles are selected from the group consisting of gold, silver, copper, platinum, palladium and mixtures thereof.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the biomolecules are selected from the group consisting of antibodies, antibody fragments, lectins, enzymes, streptavidin, avidin, protein A, antigens, peptides and haptens.

34. (Previously Presented) A method for stabilizing the biomolecule function of conjugates composed of colloidal particles and biomolecules, the method consisting essentially of:

a) adding an amount of detergent that does not exceed a critical micelle concentration, wherein the concentration of said detergent is 0.001 to 1 mM, to a solution containing biomolecules,

b) loading ~~colloidal~~ particles in a colloidal state with said solution of biomolecules to form conjugated colloidal particles, and

c) thereafter adding an additional stabilizer, wherein said detergent does not adversely influence the biomolecule or the conjugated particle function of ~~the conjugates~~ said conjugated colloidal particles by displacing the biomolecules ~~or by interacting with the biomolecules or the colloidal particles after loading~~ from said conjugated colloidal particles.

35-36. (Canceled).

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the additional stabilizer is an inert protein, polyethylene glycol, or a mixture thereof.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the colloidal particles are selected from the group consisting of gold, silver, copper, platinum, palladium and mixtures thereof.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the biomolecules are selected from the group consisting of antibodies, antibody fragments, lectins, enzymes, streptavidin, avidin, protein A, antigens, peptides, and haptens.